primary healthcare services throughout the country which *inter alia* seeks to stabilise the population growth in the country.

Import of Potassium Iodide

†2486. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that everybody is not required to eat iodised salt and many scientists and doctors are of the view that fruits, vegetables, meat, etc., fulfil the deficiency of iodine in our food;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large quantity of potassium iodide is imported to make the salt iodised;

(c) if so, whether multinational companies are getting directly benefited as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider to relax the compulsion of selling iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The medical experts and scientists of the country from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Delhi, Directorate General of Health Services, State Health Directorates, Indian Medical Association (IMA), other medical institutions and International organization (WHO), UNICEF, International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), Micronutrient Initiative (MI) have clearly opined that there is need of iodine supplementation daily through iodated salt for the entire population as there is environmental iodine deficiency in the country. Consequently, the various food products in the form of vegetarian and non-vegetarian foods are deficient in iodine content and will not provide the normal requirement of nutritional iodine *i.e.* about 100-150 micrograms daily for a person. The studies conducted by Directorate General of Health Services and medical institutions have very clearly demonstrated that as a result of iodine supplementation through iodated salt in various districts of the country, there is significant reduction of iodine deficiency disorders. Recently, the impact evaluation studies conducted by the National Institute of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Nutrition, Hyderabad, covering 40 districts in 25 States have also very clearly shown that there is significant decrease in iodine deficiency disorders as a result of regular consumption of iodated salt. As the problem of iodine deficiency is still prevalent in all States/UTs as a public health problem, there is need of compulsory salt iodisation for all human beings in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Spurious Drugs market in Delhi

†2487. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medicine wholesale market situated in Delhi has emerged as the biggest market of spurious drugs in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite of all Government efforts, even the raids of C.B.I. and Department of Drugs have proved futile to prevent the business of the said spurious drugs;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to tackle the said situation; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) During the period 2004-05 and 2005-06, 138 and 121 samples of drugs respectively were collected from Bhagirath Palace market, out of which test reports in respect of 129 and 69 samples respectively have been received and none of them has been reported spurious.

From this data it cannot be said that the medicine wholesale market situated in Delhi has emerged as the biggest market of spurious drugs in the country.

(b) During 2005-06 (till 13.3.06), there was no joint raid of the officers of department of drugs and the CBI officers.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Drugs Control Department, NCT of Delhi to tackle the situation:

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